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**TIM RYAN**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SUBCOMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN

DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE  
VICE CHAIRMAN

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

March 30, 2022

Ohio Power Siting Board  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**RE: Case Number: 19-1871-EL-BTX (Lincoln Park-Riverbend 138 kV Transmission Line Project)**

Dear Members of the Ohio Power Siting Board:

As both a resident and Representative of the Mahoning Valley's 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I write to voice my strong opposition to the proposed plan by American Transmission Systems (a FirstEnergy company) to construct a six-mile long 138 kilovolt high-tension power line in Youngstown, OH. As you are aware, the proposed route would connect the Lincoln Park Substation to the Riverbend Substation via an aboveground line which follows the north bank of the Mahoning River.

The proposed line would traverse land occupied by the Youngstown Foundation Amphitheatre, Wean Park, and Covelli Center. This stretch of land along the Mahoning River represents many years of collective hard work by local, state, and federal officials—including my office—to secure millions in funding to develop it into an economic driver and quality of life asset for Youngstown's residents and guests.

Together the Amphitheatre, Park, and Covelli Center provide vital space for indoor and outdoor events that generate significant and important economic revenue for Youngstown. In addition, I have worked closely with City officials to help identify and obtain funding to clean and revitalize the Mahoning River in a way that supports recreational and commercial activities. Simply put, marring this beautiful and useful land with an unsightly and disruptive high-power transmission line would do irreparable harm to the City of Youngstown's immediate and long-term economic development plans.

I am urging the Ohio Power Siting Board to oppose First Energy's proposed plan. I ask the Board to instead instruct the company to renew talks with the City of Youngstown and other stakeholders to find an alternative plan. Alternatives might involve a route which avoids the Mahoning River and/or buries the transmission lines.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress